

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 09092 271410Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 XMB-02
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /033 W
-----280654Z 081478 /21

R 271358Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8621
DEPARTMENT TREASURY
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 09092

DEPARTMENT PASS FEDERAL RESERVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, GW
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY
OF FINANCE

1. SUMMARY. THE FEDERAL CABINET HAS NOW CONFIRMED
THE APPOINTMENT OF MANFRED LAHNSTEIN AS STATE
SECRETARY (UNDER SECRETARY) SUCCEEDING KARL OTTO POEHL
AT THE FINANCE MINISTRY. LAHNSTEIN WILL BE SUCCEEDED
IN HIS PRESENT JOB OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BY
DR. HORST SCHULMANN. END SUMMARY.

2. MANFRED LAHNSTEIN IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AMONG HIS
COLLEAGUES IN BONN AS A MAN WHO FOCUSES ON WHAT IS
IMPORTANT AND APPROACHES THIS IN A VERY DIRECT AND
PRAGMATIC MANNER. COMPARED TO HIS PREDECESSOR,
WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY TO FIND LAHNSTEIN
MORE DIRECT AND LESS DIPLOMATIC, BUT EQUALY EASY
TO WORK WITH. LAHNSTEIN IS THE PERSONAL CHOICE OF
FINANCE MINISTER APEL FOR HIS NEW JOB AND CAN BE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 09092 271410Z

EXPECTED TO HAVE HIS MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE, IF
ANYTHING, TO AN EVEN GREATER DEGREE THAN HIS
PREDECESSOR. HE DOES NOT HAVE STATE SECRETARY POEHL'S
DIRECT PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
BUT IS MUCH MORE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE SPD AND THE
TRADE UNIONS THAN POEHL.

3. LAHNSTEIN MOVES TO HIS NEW JOB FROM THAT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FINANCE FOR "BASIC QUESTIONS OF FISCAL POLICY" WHICH COMBINED A GENERAL POLICY PLANNING FUNCTION WITH THAT OF BRINGING OVERALL ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS TO BEAR ON FISCAL DECISIONS AND REPRESENTING THE MINISTRY IN INTERDEPARTMENTAL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CYCLE POLICY FORMULATION GROUPS. IN THIS JOB LAHNSTEIN HAS HAD A MAJOR INPUT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS CYCLE POLICIES. HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE AN ABLE ECONOMIST WHO IS ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE AS A BUREAUCRAT AND SKILLFULLY BLENDS PARTY POLITICS WITH PUSHING FOR WHAT MAKES SENSE ECONOMICALLY.

4. PRIOR TO COMING TO THE FINANCE MINISTRY IN MAY OF 1974, LAHNSTEIN WORKED FOR CHANCELLOR BRANDT AS HEAD OF THE CHANCELLERY ECONOMIC DIVISION (IN THAT JOB, TOO, POEHL WAS HIS PREDECESSOR). PRIOR TO THAT HE SPENT SIX YEARS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS ENDING UP AS CHEF DE CABINET OF EC VICE PRESIDENT WILHELM HAERKAMP.

5. LAHNSTEIN IS 39 YEARS OLD, IS MARRIED, HAS TWO SONS FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE. HIS WIFE WORKS FOR THE EC LIAISON OFFICE IN BONN. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH AND SOME ITALIAN (HE HAS A VACATION HOME IN ITALY). HIS WIFE SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH AND ADEQUATE ENGLISH. BOTH LAHNSTEIN'S ARE INTERESTED IN ART AND GARDENING.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 09092 271410Z

6. LAHNSTEIN VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN 1972 UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM. IN MANY YEARS OF CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ALWAYS FOUND LAHNSTEIN HELPFUL AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. THE FAMILY IS PLANNING A PRIVATE VACATION TRIP TO CANADA AND THE US THIS SUMMER.

7. HORST SCHULMANN COMES TO HIS NEW JOB FROM THE STAFF OF THE EC COMMISSION. PRIOR TO GOING TO BRUSSELS, HE WAS FROM 1967-69 SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GERMAN COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS. HE IS 44 YEARS OLD.
STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, FINANCE, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN09092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0508
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770511/aaaaajix.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5a36088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2344074
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE
TAGS: EFIN, GE, (LAHNSTEIN, MANFRED), (POEHL, KARL OTTO), (SCHULMANN, HORST)
To: STATE TRSY
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5a36088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009